

Application No. 10/626,298
Amendment dated August 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 23, 2005

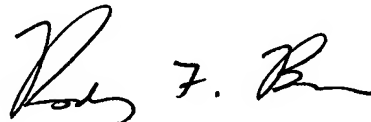
REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in the above-captioned patent application at the time of the Office Action. The Office Action allows claims 1-8 and 14-20. Claims 9 and 13 are rejected. Claims 10-12 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response to the rejections, applicant amends claims 9, 11, and 12 and cancels claim 10. Amended claim 9 incorporates all the limitations of original claims 9 and 10, while amended claim 12 incorporates all the limitations of original claims 9 and 12. Amended claim 11 and original claim 13 are dependent on allowable claim 9. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.116(a)(1), claims 9 and 11-13 are now allowable as complying with all requirements of form set forth in the instant Final Office Action. Claim 10 is cancelled and is no longer at issue.

Conclusion

In conclusion, applicant respectfully asserts that all pending claims 1-9 and 11-20 in the instant patent application are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (858) 272-8705 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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